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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## Health of the Rural District

for the Year 1946

BY

JOHN L. FARMER, M.B., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health*

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WINCHESTER:  
Printed by Herbert Curnow Ltd. 1 St. Peter Street



Winchester Rural District Council

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August, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee,  
Winchester Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year  
1946.

In view of the fact that all the work recorded in  
this report was directed by Dr. C. H. Avery, I have  
refrained from making any appreciable alteration in  
its form; I have only presented the results.

The report gives a general survey of the work  
carried out under the various services of your Health  
Department. Much of the work in connection with  
this report has fallen to Mr. Hurst, the Senior Sanitary  
Inspector, to whom, to Mr. Beyer and Mr. Smith, the  
District Sanitary Inspectors, and to the Clerical Staff,  
I wish to express my thanks for their consideration and  
co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN L. FARMER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

### Public Health Officers

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

FRANK HURST, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

S. H. BEYER, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

H. J. SMITH, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Clerical Staff :

C. B. ASHMAN.

MISS I. M. DANGERFIELD (to 21st September, 1946).

MISS J. A. LEWIS (from 7th October, 1946).

Rodent Officer :

T. A. SAWKINS.

Rodent Operatives :

H. MORGAN.

MISS B. START.

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN L. FARMER, M.B., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

## Surveyor's Department

Surveyor :

A. J. R. WATTS, A.F.A.S.

District Surveyors :

P. J. MITCHELL, P.A.S.I., A.R.San.I., A.I.Mun.E., A.I.A.S.,  
F.F.S. (Eng.), Chartered Surveyor.

L. R. NIPPIERD.

## Laboratory Services

Laboratory examinations are carried out at the County Public Health Laboratory, The Castle, Winchester.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area .....	110,436 acres
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1946 .....	£268,055
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£1,098 10s. 6d.
Population .....	36,510

## VITAL STATISTICS

	1946			1945		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births (Legitimate) .....	333	331	664	332	295	627
Live Births (Illegitimate) .....	30	26	56	36	26	62
Total Live Births .....	363	357	720	368	321	689



Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 19.7 compared with 19.1 for the whole of England and Wales.

	1946			1945		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Still Births (Legitimate) .....	8	12	20	8	4	12
Still Births (Illegitimate) .....	1	1	2	2	3	5
Total Still Births .....	9	13	22	10	7	17

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births was 29.64. The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1944 and 1945 was 28.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths .....	203	186	389

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 10.6 compared with 11.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

#### Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis ..... nil  
 Other maternal causes ..... one  
 (This mother died in September, 1946, from  
 Eclampsia in the Royal Hampshire County  
 Hospital, Winchester.)

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	57
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	1

The death rate of infants under one year of age is 30.5 per 1,000 live births compared with 43.0 for the whole of England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH						Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	6	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	—
8.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	1	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis (Infantile Paralysis)	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis (Sleepy Sickness)	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	3	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	9	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	4
16.	Cancer of other sites	...	...	...	...	21	14
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—
18.	Inter Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	20	23
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	62	53
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	8	7
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	6
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	1
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	—
27.	Other digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	6
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	8
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	—
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	9	7
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	3	3
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	18	29
All Causes						203	186

Deaths of Infants under one year of age (included in the above table) :—

	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	12	7
Illegitimate .....	2	1
Total .....	14	8

The deaths in the above table include residents who died outside the District and exclude non-residents who died within the District. Non-civilians are excluded.



# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1939

Year	Diph- theria	Scarl't Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneu- monia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia
1939	23	32	—	2	*	*	7
1940	5	51	—	5	403	116	4
1941	13	41	2	22	568	177	7
1942	4	57	—	16	149	37	7
1943	2	63	—	27	562	142	10
1944	2	55	1	15	61	49	4
1945	2	49	—	23	675	115	3
1946	2	38	—	25	75	72	1

\*No figures available for 1939.

The following table gives particulars of infectious diseases notified during the year, excluding tuberculosis, for which a separate table is given :—

Disease	Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	38	25	1
Diphtheria ... ..	2	2	1
Pneumonia ... ..	25	2	14
Erysipelas ... ..	8	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	—
Typhoid and Para-typhoid ... ..	—	—	—
Infantile Paralysis (Acute Poliomy- elitis and Polio-encephalitis) ... ..	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	2	1	1
Measles ... ..	75	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	72	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	4	—	—

Only certain forms of Pneumonia are notifiable, but the deaths recorded above are from all forms.

The cases of Cerebro-spinal fever, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were visited and advice given as to the necessary medical precautions for disinfection to be taken.

### **Scarlet Fever**

Thirty-eight cases were notified, compared with forty-nine the previous year. There was one death.

The incidence of the disease within the district was 1.04 per 1,000 population compared with 1.38 throughout England and Wales.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Fever**

There were two cases, one occurring in a child of two years of age who is reported to have died within twelve hours of onset, and the other in a man aged 59 years, who made a good recovery.

### **Diphtheria**

Two cases were notified. One occurred in a girl aged 15 years who was reported to have been immunised but of which no record was found. The attack was very severe and the girl died. The other case occurred in a child of seven years of age, who had not been immunised.

**Anti-toxin.** Anti-toxin for the treatment of diphtheria is supplied free to those General Practitioners who apply for it. It is stored at convenient parts of the district.

**Immunisation.** This is given free by this Council to all children in the District up to, but not including, those of 15 years of age.

Propaganda concerning this malady is spread to the public by means of a Greeting Message Card being sent to all children upon attaining their first birthday, unless they have previously been immunised. Slides are shown at two cinemas in the District and leaflets distributed, with the co-operation of the Food Office, to those parents applying to be supplied with milk and vitamins for children under five years of age. Much valued assistance was again afforded by the co-operation of the County Medical Officer of Health.

During the summer this propaganda was intensified for a period of six weeks. Co-operation was sought and very kindly given by the Women's Voluntary Services, the British Red Cross Society, the County and District Nursing Associations and the Women's Institute. Particular stress was laid on the value of personal influence that each member might exercise in his/her own parish.

The total number of children who had received complete treatment free under this Council's scheme during the year was 813. Of these, 280 were treated by their own doctors, 251 at Child Welfare Centres and 282 at School Clinics. The percentage of children under 15 years of age who had been immunised up to 31st December, 1946, was 80.9.

### Measles

Seventy-five cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths. Leaflets containing advice on prevention and treatment were obtained by this Council and distributed in two parishes where mild outbreaks occurred.

### Whooping Cough

The seventy-two cases of Whooping Cough notified were evenly spread over the whole of the District.

### Scabies

This Council, being a Sanitary Authority, has made provision for curing the condition of Scabies and for securing treatment and disinfection for the members of the households among whom Scabies exists.

The Clinics of Eastleigh Borough and the City of Winchester, at which Rural District patients were permitted to attend for treatment during the war, were closed in June and November, 1945, respectively. The Council has arranged for Benzyl Benzoate (National Formula recommended by the Ministry of Health) to be distributed by the Sanitary Inspectors to the homes of those suffering from Scabies, together with appropriate instructions as to how this treatment should be carried out. This arrangement was commenced in October 1945, and appears to have been satisfactory. The number of patients so treated during 1946 was:—

	Male	Female
Adults .....	7	8
Children .....	12	16

## Tuberculosis

The following table refers to new cases notified and mortality during the year :—

Year	New Cases and Cases transferred to the District					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
1946	26	15	3	4	48	6	5	2	—	13
1945	16	12	—	4	32	4	5	3	—	12

All cases which are diagnosed as suffering from Tuberculosis are notified to me.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

### 1. (A) For Infectious Diseases

The Ambulances belonging to the City of Winchester and to the County Borough of Southampton are used when required.

### (B) For Cases of Ordinary Sickness and Accidents

Such cases are served by two Ambulances based in Winchester and operated jointly by Winchester City and this Rural District.

### 2. Hedge End

The parishioners of Hedge End formed a Voluntary Ambulance Association, purchasing one of the Civil Defence Vehicles for the conveyance of urgent cases occurring within the six parishes of Hamble, Hedge End, Hound, Botley, Bursledon and West End. Towards the end of the year, negotiations were proceeding for the acquisition of another vehicle as the original Ambulance was proving unsatisfactory.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Inspection

All parts of the area have been frequently visited by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.



## HOUSING

The Rural Housing Survey which commenced in 1944 is still proceeding. The total number of houses surveyed at the end of the year was 4,935; approximately 40 per cent. of the houses coming within the scope of the survey (up to, but not exceeding, the rateable value of £20) remained to be inspected to complete the survey.

The following categories are prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 64/1944, together with a classification system of grouping showing whether public supply services are, or will be, available :—

Category	Group A	Group B	Group C	Total
1. Houses satisfactory in all respects	115	379	33	527
2. Houses with minor defects ...	672	1491	531	2694
3. Houses requiring repairs, structural alterations or improvements	88	770	165	1023
4. Houses suitable for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts ...	—	123	67	190
5. Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense ...	24	264	213	501
Totals	899	3027	1009	4935

Group Classifications are as follows :—

Group "A"—" Services available, i.e., piped water supply, water carriage sewerage system, gas or electricity " denoting that these services are available but not necessarily connected.

Group " B "—" Restricted number of services available, others likely to be available in the near future " denoting that one or several of the above services are available but not necessarily connected and those not at present available may become so in the near future.

Group " C "—" Rural conditions only; services not available or anticipated to be available in the near future," denoting that these conditions are not likely to be varied.

## Maintenance

The task of securing the execution of the repair and maintenance has not improved during the year, owing to the acute shortage of building labour and materials. Licences have been issued for the necessary work essential to maintenance, such as defective roofs of houses, defective eaves spouting, valley gutters, etc., defective W.C.s; obstructed drains; repairs to unusable washing accommodation; repairs to sinks; repairs to any portion of a house which constitute a danger to life and limb, and any such items of disrepair as may be necessary to safeguard the health of the occupants.

## Provision of New Houses

New housing accommodation has been provided during the year in the undermentioned parishes:—

Parish						Permanent Houses	Pre-fab. Units
MICHELDEVER	...	...	..	...	...	6	—
BISHOPS SUTTON	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
OTTERBOURNE	...	...	...	...	...	10	—
WEST END	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
KILMESTON	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
BURSLEDON	...	...	...	...	...	2	<del>10</del>
HOUND	...	...	...	...	...	10	<del>50</del> 62
COLDEN COMMON	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
WONSTON	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
HAMBLE	...	...	...	...	...	—	50
HEDGE END	...	...	...	...	...	—	20
ALRESFORD	...	...	...	...	...	—	10
Totals						56	150

In addition, Rest Centre huts have been converted into living accommodation as follows: Hedge End 10; Botley 4.

Sixty-four hutments are occupied in various camps.

## Housing by Private Enterprise

During the year, twenty-two houses have been completed by private enterprise.

## WATER SUPPLY

### Dwelling-houses

The bulk of the piped supply in this District is supplied by the Corporation of Southampton and the City of Winchester. Two private water companies, the Alresford Water Company



and the Crabwood Water Supply, provide water to one and two parishes respectively. These water undertakings made periodical bacteriological and chemical examination of their water, all of which have been satisfactory. In addition there are one or two estate supplies and a standpipe supply for the village of Owslebury, the latter being supervised by this Council.

All sources of water supply in the District are derived from deep wells sunk in the chalk strata. A certain quantity of water is extracted from the River Itchen by the Southampton Corporation and is subjected to a process of sedimentation (with the addition of sulphate of alumina) followed by filtration through rapid gravity sand filter and finally sterilised by means of the "Chloramine" treatment.

The water supply has been generally satisfactory in quality and quantity and free from plumbo-solvent action, although in the more rural part of the area some of the shallow wells tended to yield a limited and sedimentary supply during dry periods.

One hundred and seventy-nine houses have been connected with a piped supply during the year. Approximately 83 per cent. of the population are connected with the main supply, and 70 per cent. of the dwelling houses.

Samples of well-water supplying eighteen individual properties were found on examination to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. In each of these cases alternative supplies were provided or the wells cleansed and suitable measures taken to prevent soil contamination, which steps resulted in a satisfactory supply.

### **Agricultural Water Supply**

The Minister of Agriculture has continued to approve further schemes for the supply and distribution of water for agricultural use during the year, and in several schemes a piped supply of water has been supplied to cottages adjacent to farm premises. Negotiations are in progress with the Ministry in one case to lay the water main to fit in with the proposed general scheme to provide a piped supply to the area.

### **Water Act, 1945**

A scheme has been formulated to supply a piped supply of water to north and north-eastern parishes in this District. A trial borehole has been selected at Totford and the scheme is awaiting an enquiry by the Ministry of Health.

An agreement has been entered into with the Southampton Corporation Water Undertaking to take a bulk supply of water to provide the parish of Owslebury with a piped supply of water. A high level reservoir (50,000 gallons) at Baybridge (420 O.D.) is proposed, from which the water will be distributed to the village of Owslebury and the hamlets of Baybridge and Morestead.

Tenders are to be called for early in 1947 for work to provide a standpipe supply of water for the village of Bighton from an existing bore as an interim scheme until the proposed general scheme comes into operation.

## **SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE**

A firm of Consulting Engineers has prepared a scheme to drain the parishes of Hedge End, Botley and Bursledon, and also the unsewered part of the parish of Hound adjoining them. The ultimate disposal of the sewage after treatment will be in Southampton Water.

Renewed tenders have been called for in connection with the Sewerage Scheme for West End, and it is hoped that the work will be commenced in 1947.

## **SCAVENGING**

A system of kerbside collection of refuse and salvage is now in operation by direct labour for the whole of the Rural District. The frequency of collection varies with the need of the various parishes, the more urbanised parishes once a week and the more rural areas once a month. Disposal is by means of controlled tipping.

## **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES**

### **Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces**

Premises 1	Inspections 2	No. of written notices 3	Occupiers prosecuted 4
Factories (with mechanical power) ...	10	1	—
Factories (without mechanical power)	52	1	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Totals	62	2	—

JOHN L. FARMER, Medical Officer of Health.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1946

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to report briefly the year's work of sanitary administration as shewn in the routine inspections, tabulated below, carried out in the district during the year:—

Statute	Nature of Visit	No. of Inspections	
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926 to 1943 ...	(a) Number of Milk Producers registered during year ... (b) Inspections for re-constructions, alterations and cleanliness ... (c) Number of alterations and improvements to dairy premises	98	10
Factories Act, 1937 ...	Inspections ... Re-inspections ...	19 43	7
Shops Act, 1934	Routine inspection of premises ...	26	
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ...	Inspection of food ...	133	
Housing Act, 1936 Part II ...	(a) Rural Housing Survey ... (b) Houses inspected in respect of essential repairs ... (c) Re-inspection of premises ...	2636 127 598	
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	(a) Inspection of premises ... (b) Nuisances found and remedied ... (c) Re-inspection of premises ... (d) Water Supply Inspections ... (e) Infectious Diseases—Visits and Disinfections ...	231 143 1188 96 117	
Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Rodent Control ...	(a) Number of premises surveyed ... (b) Number of premises treated ...	2508	742
Interviews ...			401
	Samples of well-water examined ...		46
	Number reported polluted ...		18
	Samples of milk examined for efficiency of Pasteurisation ...		3
	Sewage effluent examined ...		1
	Total ...	7953	

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HURST, M.S.I.A.

